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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 37-68 and amend the claims as follows:

1. - 68. Cancelled.

69. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for rotating a tubular, comprising:
a housing having a non-rotating portion;
a sealing element disposed within the non-rotating portion;
a retainer ring radially disposed about the sealing element; and
an annular piston radially disposed about the sealing element and aligned with the retainer ring.

70. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, wherein the retainer ring radially engages the sealing element by using fluid pressure behind the annular piston.

71. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 70, wherein actuation of the annular piston is remotely controlled.

72. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, wherein a second retainer ring is disposed between the housing and a body surrounding the housing, the second retainer ring being adapted to retain the housing with the body.

73. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 72, wherein a second annular piston is engageable with the second retainer ring.

74. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, further comprising a rotating portion disposed between the sealing element and the non-rotating portion, the rotating portion comprising a first cavity for the retainer ring and a second cavity for the annular piston.

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75. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 69, further comprising a lower body and an upper body coupled to the lower body and wherein the sealing element is enclosed therein.

76. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 75, wherein the lower body and the upper body are coupled in a sealing relationship.

Please add the following new claims:

77. (New) A drilling head, comprising:
a sealing element having a central axis;
a body having a cavity formed therein, the sealing element being at least partially enclosed in the cavity and the body having at least two ends adapted to be coupled to adjoining members; and

a retainer for coupling the sealing element to the body and adapted to fasten or release the sealing element from the body, the retainer having an arcuate surface for contacting the sealing element, wherein a radius of curvature of the arcuate surface is at least equal to a distance from the central axis to the arcuate surface.

78. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein the retainer is at least partially disposed in the body.

79. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein sealing element comprises a packer.

80. (New) The drilling head of claim 79, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material.

81. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein the retainer comprises a c-shaped ring.

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82. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein the arcuate surface is conformable to an outer surface of the sealing element.
83. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein the body comprises a lower body and an upper body, wherein the lower body and the upper body are coupled in a sealing relationship therebetween.
84. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, wherein the retainer further comprises a second arcuate surface, wherein the second arcuate surface is concentric with the first arcuate surface.
85. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, further comprising a housing coupled to the sealing element wherein an opening formed in the body is sufficiently sized to allow the housing to be lifted through the body.
86. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, further comprising a piston engageable with the retainer and disposed in a piston cavity.
87. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, further comprising a first port coupled to a first portion of the piston cavity and a second port coupled to a second portion of the piston cavity, wherein the first port allows fluid into the first portion of the piston cavity and the second port allows fluid into the second portion of the piston cavity to override fluid pressure in the first portion of the piston cavity.
88. (New) A method of retaining a sealing element in a drilling head, comprising:
disposing the sealing element in a rotating portion of the drilling head;
radially moving a retainer toward the sealing element, the retainer having an arcuate surface for contacting the sealing element, wherein a radius of curvature of the arcuate surface is at least equal to a distance of the arcuate surface from the central axis;

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radially engaging the sealing element with the retainer; and
using bearings to allow rotation between the rotating portion and a non-rotating portion.

89. (New) The drilling head of claim 88, wherein the bearings are pre-loaded by a force exerted on the bearing.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising altering the pre-loading on the bearing by adjusting fluid pressure exerted on the bearing.

91. (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising maintaining the pre-loading on the bearing from a location remote to the bearing by controlling the pressure of the fluid.

92. (New) The drilling head of claim 88, wherein the retainer is at least partially disposed in the rotating portion.

93. (New) The drilling head of claim 88, further comprising deforming the retainer, thereby conforming the retainer to the sealing element.

94. (New) A method of retaining a sealing element in a drilling head, comprising:
providing a rotating portion in the drilling head, the rotating portion comprising a retainer having an arcuate surface for contacting the sealing element, wherein a radius of curvature of the arcuate surface is at least equal to a distance of the arcuate surface from the central axis;

disposing the sealing element in the rotating portion; and

introducing fluid pressure behind a piston, thereby forcing the retainer radially inward toward the sealing element to radially engage the sealing element relative to the rotating portion.

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95. (New) A seal assembly for handling a tubular, comprising:
a non-rotating portion;
a sealing element at least partially disposed within the non-rotating portion, wherein an outer circumference of the sealing element has a radius larger than a radius of the tubular;
a retaining member having an arcuate portion complementary to the outer circumference; and
a piston adapted to urge the retaining member into engagement with the sealing element.
96. (New) The seal assembly of claim 95, wherein the retaining member engages the sealing element by fluidly actuating the piston.
97. (New) The seal assembly of claim 95, further comprising a rotating portion disposed between the sealing element and the non-rotating portion.
98. (New) The seal assembly of claim 97, wherein the sealing element is rotatable with the rotating portion when the retaining member is engaged with the sealing element.
99. (New) A method of retaining a tubular in a drilling head, comprising:
providing a rotating portion of the drilling head with a retaining member;
positioning the sealing element in the rotating portion of the drilling head, the sealing element having a circumference larger than the tubular;
engaging the sealing element with the tubular;
fluidly actuating a piston to move the retaining member radially toward the sealing element; and
engaging at least a portion of the circumference of the sealing element with a complementary arcuate portion of the retaining member, whereby the sealing element is coupled to the rotating portion.

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100. (New) The method of claim 99, further comprising rotating the rotating portion relative to a non-rotating portion while maintaining engagement of the sealing element with the retaining member.

101. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein fluidly actuating the piston comprises using hydraulic pressure to force the piston toward the retaining member.

102. (New) The method of claim 99, wherein fluidly actuating the piston comprises using pneumatic pressure to force the piston toward the retaining member.

103. (New) The method of claim 99, further comprising rotating the sealing element with the rotating portion.

104. (New) A method of retaining a sealing element, comprising:
providing an outer body having a rotating portion;
disposing the sealing element in the rotating portion;
radially moving a retainer toward the sealing element using fluid pressure behind a piston to force the piston toward the retainer, the retainer having a first arcuate surface for contacting the sealing element and a second arcuate surface for contacting the rotating portion, wherein the first arcuate surface is concentric with the second arcuate surface; and
radially engaging the sealing element with the retainer.

105. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the retainer is disposed between the sealing element and the rotating portion prior to engagement with the sealing element.

106. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising allowing the rotating portion to rotate relative to a non-rotating portion while maintaining the engagement of the sealing element with the retainer.

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107. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising actuating movement of the retainer from a location remote to the retainer.

108. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein using fluid pressure behind the piston to force the piston toward the retainer comprises using hydraulic pressure to force the piston toward the retainer.

109. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein using fluid pressure behind the piston to force the piston toward the retainer comprises using pneumatic pressure to force the piston toward the retainer.

110. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the fluid pressure behind the piston forces the retainer radially inward toward the sealing element.

111. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein the piston is an annular piston.

112. (New) The method of claim 104, wherein a radius of curvature of the first arcuate surface is at least equal to a distance of the first arcuate surface from a central axis of the sealing element.

113. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the sealing element comprises an elastomeric material.

114. (New) The method of claim 112, wherein the sealing element comprises a packer.

115. (New) The method of claim 104, further comprising providing an indication that the retainer has engaged the sealing element.

116. (New) The method of claim 115, wherein an indicator is provided to indicate engagement of the retainer to the sealing element.

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117. (New) The method of claim 116, further comprising pushing the indicator outward when the retainer engages the sealing element.
118. (New) The drilling head of claim 77, further comprising an indicator to indicate that the retainer is coupled to the sealing element.
119. (New) The drilling head of claim 118, wherein the indicator is pushed outward from the body when the retainer is coupled to the sealing element.
120. (New) A seal assembly for handling a tubular, comprising:
a non-rotating portion;
a sealing element at least partially disposed within the non-rotating portion;
a retaining member adapted to engage the sealing element;
a piston adapted to urge the retaining member into engagement with the sealing element; and
an indicator for signaling that the retaining member is engaged with the sealing element.